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- the maintenance of the Institute's premises (currently being established at 2 Fisher Street, Surfdale, Auckland);
- the publication of the results from work at the Institute and elsewhere in the Institute's non-profit Monograph Series;
- the bi-annual publication of the Institute's official journal, *Rongorongo Studies: A Forum for Polynesian Philology*;
- the award money (US \$250) to the winner of the annual Polynesian Literary Competition; and scholarships and grants and other financial and non-financial assistance for eligible applicants working in Polynesian languages and literatures.

At the present time, books on Polynesian languages and literatures (grammars, dictionaries, word lists, collections of chants, tales, legends, and so forth) are being sought for the Institute's Library. Also, funds for book shelves and one microfilm reader are needed. Donations will be officially acknowledged and are of course fully tax deductible.

All interested parties are kindly requested to contact Dr. Steven Roger Fischer at PO Box 6965, Wellesley St, Auckland, New Zealand. Phone: 64-9-372-5094).

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### Easter Island Foundation News

The annual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Easter Island Foundation/*Funcación Isla de Pascua* was held at the home of former President, Dr. Joan Seaver-Kurze on Bay Island, Newport, California on the 19th of August. This well-attended meeting brought together members from California, Texas, Michigan and Chile. The main business concerned progress toward non-profit status in Chile for the Foundation and the establishment of a Biblioteca Mulloy on the island. The Foundation is also exploring ways to expand the Biblioteca in Viña del Mar which has outgrown the available space.

- The Foundation will co-sponsor a 1997 Rapa Nui Conference to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in conjunction with the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology and the University of New Mexico. Mark your calendar and stay

tuned for further developments.

- The Easter Island Foundation is pleased to announce the award of a personal computer (donated by *Rapanuiphile* Ben Baldanza) to Yenidet Araki, a student majoring in Anthropology at the University of Wyoming. Yenidet was born and raised on Rapa Nui. We wish her well in her future studies.

- The publication committee of the Easter Island Foundation announced several pending publications that will be appearing in the coming year, and welcomed the addition of Tamara Liller to the Editorial Board.

One of our pending publications is in conjunction with the World Monuments Fund, and is a volume containing all of William Mulloy's original (but long out-of-print) *Bulletins* plus a paper that appeared in *Américas* and one that has never been published in the U.S.: "A Preliminary Culture-Historical Research Model for Easter Island". A foreword to the volume is by Patrick McCoy.

The others, now in preparation, include 'Hawaiian and Marquesan Body Decoration' by Tricia Allen and Caroline Klarr; 'Speak Rapanui/Habla Rapanui', by Ana Betty Haoa Rapahango and William Liller; 'Archaeological Investigations at Maunga Tari, Easter Island: An Upland Agricultural Complex' by Christopher Stevenson; and 'Archaeology on Easter Island: Research on Early Rapa Nui Culture', edited by Christopher Stevenson. The latter contains reports of archaeological work by Andrea Seelandfreund, Leslie Shaw, George Gill, William Ayres, Patrick McCoy, J.M Ramirez, Sonia Haoa, Tim Allen, Robert Spear, Richard Cheatham, Flora Church, Becky Saleeby, Candace Levy, Felicia Beardsley, the late Carlyle Smith, and Christopher Stevenson. The publication of these archaeological excavations will expand considerably our knowledge of burial practices and settlement patterns on the island. The important study of Marquesan tattoo and Hawaiian decoration will increase our understanding of these subjects which relate also to the ancient culture of Rapa Nui; and the 3-language phrase book will be a delight to all.

One of our existing books, *The Ancient Solar Observatories of Rapanui: the Archaeoastronomy of Easter Island* by William Liller, is being re-issued in a Spanish language edition.

The above-mentioned publications are in addition to others already in preparation: 'The Woodcarving Tradition on Easter Island' by Joan Seaver-Kurze and 'The Rongorongo Tablets of Easter Island' by Alan Drake.

As these new publications become available, announcements will be made in *RNI*.

- The Fonck Museum in Viña del Mar has a new contract with the Municipalidad of Viña which guarantees that the city building they now occupy will continue as the Fonck Museum for the next ten years. The Fonck will soon inaugurate a photographic exhibit of scenes from Easter Island, taken by

California photographer, Wally McGilliard. This group of 15 stunning views of Rapa Nui is from the collection of the Biblioteca Mulloy. □

### **Sophora toromiro beneath the Mediterranean Sun**

The Exotic Botanical Garden of Menton celebrated the coming of summer with a moving ceremony. Continuing with the experiment of acclimatization which began in 1993 with the arrival of the first specimen of *Sophora toromiro* from Goteborg, the director of the Jardín de Val Rahmen in Menton, professor Jean Yves Monnier, received the visit of two representatives from the Botanical Garden of the University of Bonn. From the hot-house of said garden, fifteen strong *Sophora toromiro* grown from seeds were sent from Menton to grow under the Mediterranean sun. These small trees have, in three years, reached a size of about 40 cm and are a very appreciated gift, as also was the arrival of the

German group composed of biologist Nadja Biendinger and the person responsible for the cultivation of *Sophora toromiro* in Bonn, Otto Kriesten, who was able to establish a valuable interchange of experiments and observations with his French colleague.

After the return of 70 *toromiro* plants to Easter Island in May, the unobtrusive planting ceremony that took place in Menton on 21 June had special meaning: to feel that one contributed to a common goal, realized in a simple yet moving gesture of a scientific community to help increase knowledge of this tree—a representative of the Rapa Nui culture.

The fifteen *Sophora toromiro* are carefully planted in a protective Mediterranean milieu and are to be found in various places in the garden, under the shelter of other trees and for the pleasure of visitors.

Rosa Olmos, CRNS CREDAL-France

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